

Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program Funding

About the project

The Santa Clara Valley Water District, Pacheco Pass Water District and the San Benito County Water District are working to secure funding for a \$1 billion project that will increase Pacheco Reservoir's storage capacity and deliver water supply, water quality and ecosystems benefits to the region and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This project is an example of smart investments to make sure water supplies meet future needs.

Expanding the reservoir from its current operational capacity of 5,500 acre-feet to 140,000 acre-feet would enhance the continuity of flows in Pacheco Creek, expand the storage of Central Valley Project water available to Santa Clara Valley and San Benito County water districts and provide more flexibility for use of this water at optimal times.

The expanded reservoir, when filled by a combination of Central Valley Project supplies and local inflows, would inundate land on private properties, but not into Henry Coe State Park. The project would establish a high quality steelhead population that reaches far inland from Monterey Bay into Pacheco Creek.

It would also build an earthen dam a short distance upstream of the existing dam and a pipeline to connect the existing dam to the Pacheco Pass Conduit, a federal Central Valley Project pipeline that delivers water into Santa Clara and San Benito counties from San Luis Reservoir.

Districts pursue funding

In August 2017, the Santa Clara Valley Water District applied for \$484.5 million in funding from California's Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

This Act, passed by California voters, provides for \$7.5 billion in general obligation bonds, including \$2.7 billion for investments in surface and groundwater storage projects. The water storage projects will be funded under the act's Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).



Existing Pacheco Reservoir.

Other water storage projects throughout the state are vying for WSIP funds, which can cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, but only that portion dedicated to providing public benefits, including environmental benefits, beyond water supply.

The California Water Commission, which allocates these funds using a competitive selection process, plans to release project rankings in April 2018 and decide on funding in June 2018.

About the reservoir

The Pacheco Pass Water District owns the existing Pacheco Reservoir, an artificial water body located in southeast Santa Clara County.

Water released from the reservoir flows down Pacheco Creek and seeps through the creek bed and into the underlying groundwater aquifer as it winds towards its confluence with the Pajaro River.

The aquifer begins at the northern tip in Santa Clara County and extends southward into San Benito County. Agricultural users served by the Pacheco and San Benito water districts pump water from this aquifer.

Benefits

- Fisheries and habitat establishment along Pacheco Creek and downstream Pajaro River.
- Increased emergency water supplies and improved groundwater conditions.
- Improved water quality through avoidance of San Luis Reservoir low point issues.
- Expanded storage of wet year supplies for utilization during dry and critical years.
- Increased operational flexibility and greater local control of water supplies.
- Reduced flood risk along Pacheco Creek and downstream Pajaro River, offering some relief to the disadvantaged communities of Watsonville and Pajaro.
- Increased water supplies to Central Valley wildlife refuges.

Cost

The project capital cost is estimated at \$1 billion. WSIP funding can cover up to 50 percent of the project's cost, but only the portion dedicated to providing public benefits, including environmental benefits, beyond water supply.

Schedule

The WSIP funding application was submitted on Aug. 14, 2017. The California Water Commission is planning to release project rankings in April 2018 and early funding decisions in June 2018.

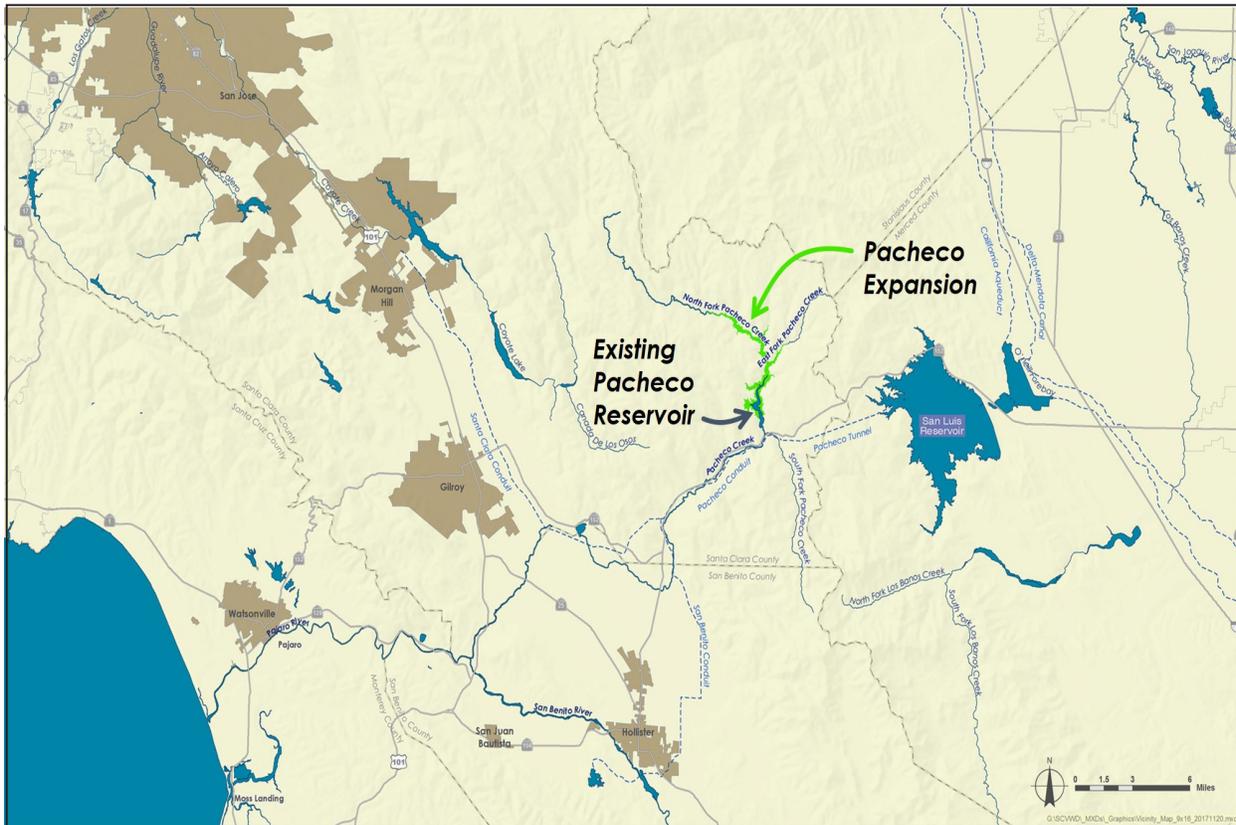


Figure 1: Study area map of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Map subject to revision.



**PACHECO PASS
WATER DISTRICT**

CONTACT US

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